

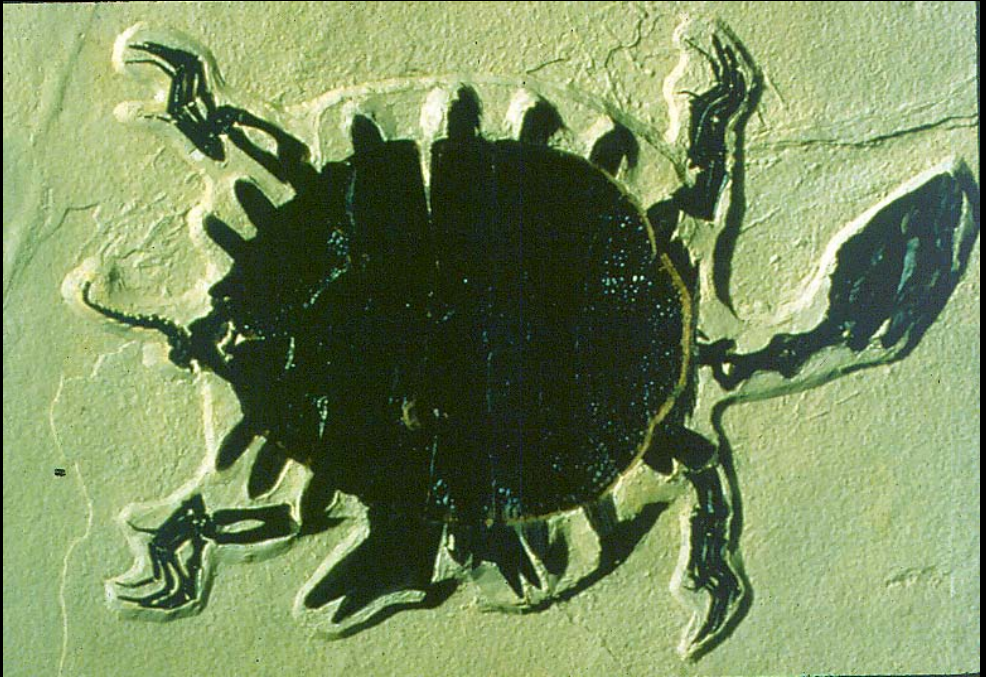
National parks are for fossils, too



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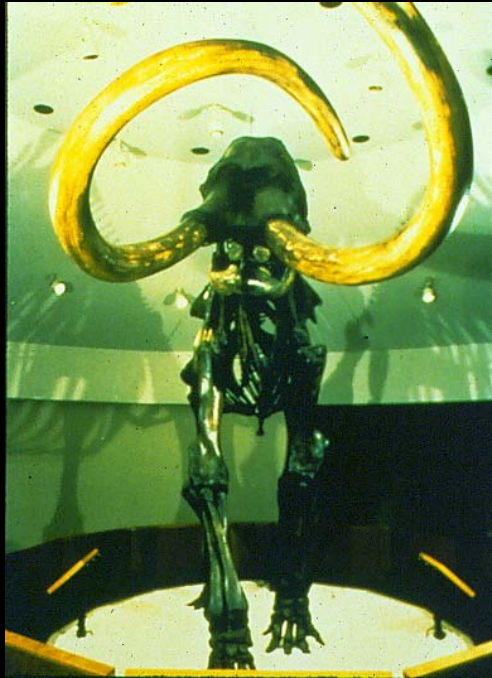
One of the best ways to find out more about fossils and paleontology is to visit a place where experts can tell you about them. Some national parks, national monuments, and Bureau of Land Management areas have fossils and people to tell you about them. So do many museums. We often think of parks as places to come and look at things, but they are also places where fossils and other resources are preserved for scientists and other people to learn about them.



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In a national park or monument you will be able to see fossils very close to where they were found. Here is a big fossil turtle about 50 million years old. It was found in sedimentary rock deposited in an ancient lake near Fossil Butte National Monument, Wyoming.



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Here is a fossil pygmy mammoth that was discovered inside Channel Islands National Park, California.



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Some national parks, monuments, and BLM areas have visitor centers with museums where fossils from the park are displayed and carefully explained for interested young paleontologists. (inside the Visitor Center)



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Sometimes parks and BLM areas have part of the museum right where the fossils are found. (Outdoor Exhibit)



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Here is a fossil rhino in Badlands National Park, South Dakota.



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If you're lucky, you might be able to watch paleontologists digging up a fossil outdoors...(Channel Islands National Park)



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or working in a fossil preparation laboratory in the visitor center. Here, at Dinosaur National Monument the visitor center is built over the bones in the rock. Paleontologists finished excavating the bones but they left them in place for visitors to see.



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Here is another preparation laboratory, at Fossil Butte National Monument.



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You'll be able to learn about fossils from people whose job it is to protect fossils for everyone to enjoy.



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While you're there, you'll also be able to enjoy the scenery and wildlife that the park has.



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Fossils are part of the natural treasures that the national parks were designed to protect. They are yours to learn from.